

# Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

[www.scouting.org.za](http://www.scouting.org.za)



**SCOUTS**  
South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

0860SCOUTS

## South African Scouting signs a Memorandum of Understanding with The President's Award

On Sunday 15th March, Rev. Vukile Mehana, the Chief Scout of South Africa and Martin Scholtz, the CEO of the President's Award signed a Memorandum of Understanding as part of the annual National Scout Council meeting. Also present at the signing was the Acting Regional Director for Africa of the International Award Association, Sister Judith Dean.

The MOU seeks to strengthen the working relationship between Scouting and The President's Award for Youth Empowerment. This will allow more

young people access to the Award Programme through Scouts.

Should you need any further information regarding the practical issues around this partnership, please contact SAHQ.



*Martin Scholtz - CEO of The Presidents Award signing with Rev. Vukile Mehana, the Chief Scout of South Africa.*

## 13th WORLD SCOUT MOOT Kenya – 27 July to 7 August 2010

This event is called a Scout Moot but in fact it is a World Rover gathering. SAHQ has been asked to indicate how many Rovers and members of a Service Team from South Africa will attend.

All Rover Crews are asked to contact SAHQ and indicate which of their members are interested in attending. South African Scouting would like to send a strong contingent to this event in support of African Scouting.

All travel to overseas International Scouting events are finan-

cially prohibitive, here is an event on our own continent and in fact to a close neighbour of ours.

The organizers are anticipating 2500 young people between the ages of 18 – 25 to be present at five Scout Centres in Nairobi, Nyeri and three other places in the Coastal, Eastern and Western parts of Kenya.

Full information can be obtained at <http://scout.org/en/circulars2009/> Read Circular no 9 March 2009

## Autumn 2009

### CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



**Amy Crankshaw** - Eastern Cape  
**John Marais** - Eastern Cape  
**Ross-Lynne Weston** - Eastern Cape  
**Aiden Trollip** - Gauteng  
**Andrew Elston** - Gauteng  
**Brandon Downes** - Gauteng  
**Christopher Hamman** - Gauteng  
**Evano Pez** - Gauteng  
**Justin Seymour** - Gauteng  
**Philippa Kleyn** - Gauteng  
**Robert Petzer** - Gauteng  
**Darryn Records** - Kwazulu Natal  
**Robert van Vuuren** - Kwazulu Natal  
**Marc Cronje** - Mpumalanga  
**Philip Silvester** - Tshwane  
**Cameron Ehlers** - Western Cape  
**Craig Burns** - Western Cape  
**Grant Little** - Western Cape  
**Gunner James Reed** - Western Cape  
**Robin Starke** - Western Cape  
**Ubayd Ali Bapoo** - Western Cape

## APPOINTMENTS

At the recent National Scout Council meeting, the following appointments were confirmed:

Chief Scout Commissioner:  
**Brian February**

National Commissioner Adult Resources:  
**Goodenough Dlamini**

National Commissioner Rovers:  
**Gerald Evans**

be prepared....

## DUTY TO GOD



What does B-P have to say about why our Promise includes such a simply stated "Duty to God:"

"In the Scout and Guide Movements we merely lay before the boys and girls the simplest fundamental ethics of religion, and then get them to put these into practice. So simple and fundamental are these that to the superficial critic, Scouting appears to be 'without religion.' Yet the student and the user of Scouting know otherwise.

I have said we adhere to simple and fundamental ethics; this is partly because these can be more readily digested by the children (and digestion is essential if food is to do any good), and partly because being at the base of all denominational forms these ethics offend none of the various beliefs with whose members we have to deal.

We put them as Christ taught them in their two simple forms: "Love thy God with all thy heart: Love thy neighbour as thyself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

But it is not enough for children to learn texts merely in the abstract and to repeat them parrot-like on occasion; that would soon pall and would have little effect on their character or their life.

So we put the two commandments into active form – Love for God – For inducing a better realization and love for God we do it to a great extent through investigation of His works. This, it must be remembered, is a step and not a substitute; and the story of David

Livingstone tells how valuable a step it can be in laying the right foundation in a young mind.

Nature craft, or the study of nature in her numerous forms, and the appreciation of all her wonders and beauties, appeals to almost every child. The camp or the outdoor hike brings girls and boys into close touch with the plants, the animals, the birds, the rocks, and their other comrades of God's great family . . .

Even where the out-of-doors observation is difficult, there are new wonders to be investigated in every inch of our own anatomy, the knowledge of which (again at the hands of an understanding teacher) can be of infinite value to both in showing the Creator's marvellous work, in developing a deeper reverence for this body that has been leant to us, and in showing how it should be cared for and developed and reproduced as part of the performance of one's duty to God.

Love of Neighbour - In promoting the second commandment, we urge our Scouts and Guides to express this in active form by doing, even in an elementary way, good service to others.

The daily good turn, without desire for reward, which grows by progressive stages till it becomes a habit of conduct, goes on till it involves sacrifices in time or money or pleasure, even to the extent of involving danger to the life of the performer.

We teach our Scouts that a gift is not theirs till they have expressed their gratitude for it. Their attitude to God is, therefore, thankfulness for benefits received; and their method for expressing this is through service, in behalf of God, to their fellow-men.

## Scout Hiking or Camping in Bad Weather

Now that our warm summer months are giving way to our sometimes, colder and wetter days and nights, Scout camping and hiking should not be packed away in the cupboard for the duration of the winter. It is said "anyone can camp or hike in good weather, but it takes a trained and determined Scout to enjoy camping or hiking when the weather is bad!"

Why does the Scout movement insist that a Scout must have his swimmers badge before taking part in water activities – or a Scout Leader hold a water activities charge, to take his Troop on the same activity? Common sense! Our Scouts must be trained and ready for whatever may happen on that outing. Our movement is exceptionally proud of its safety record, when we consider the number of Scout activities that take place, all over the country, on any given week-end or holiday.

We rely on our Leaders to prepare their Scouts for that particular strenuous activity. Then the Leader goes to his D.C. for an activity permit and, in so doing, is saying; "My Scouts are ready and able to tackle whatever tough situations may crop up, and will not do anything foolish or reckless while they are away". So we adults in the movement have this responsibility, and if we feel that we are not up to the task, then we must become trained ourselves, by attending any specialized courses offered in our Province, as well as the prescribed Warrant and Woodbadge training.



## 22nd WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE – SWEDEN 2011

Applications to attend the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden 2011 are now called for by the South African Contingent Committee. Your application must be with SAHQ by 30 June 2009. We realize that this date is two years before the date of the Jamboree, but with the amount of work the organizers must do to endeavour to minimize the cost of the trip, early bookings are essential. The cost is envisaged to be between R20000 to

R25000. This early application will give families and Scout Groups time to "fundraise" for those Scouts who are potential Jamboree participants. Adult Leaders who wish to be part of the Contingent or as part of the Service Team have this period to "save up" this amount.

All Provincial Scout Shops have a supply of the information brochure and application forms.



# KEEP THE DREAM

Way up north of our country, in and around Tzaneen, there is an organization called "Keep the Dream". Sustained by various donors and driven by Louise Batty, their most able and enthusiastic Director. "Keep the Dream" has embraced Scouting in a big way. Reading their Annual Report, half of which is devoted to and about Scouting, the numbers and impact of our movement in the Province is mind boggling.

I have had the pleasure of meeting their Chairman of the Board – Fred Hoffman, a Principal of a school in the Province and one of their main supporters, who has so much enthusiasm for what the organization and Scouting are achieving in that part of the country. "Keep the Dream", unashamedly, admit that they use the Scout ideals and programme to achieve their own aims. Why reinvent the perfect medium? And Scouting is able to reach out to so many more of our nation's youth.



## Voice of a child:

*Before I joined Scouts I was not trusted at home and I did not respect anyone. Now I'm a Scout I am trusted at home and respect other people and my parents. I didn't know about sexually transmitted infections and First Aid but I know how to protect myself and help others. I love to be in Scouts and follow the rules of Scouts. I will be an example to other youth that use and take drugs and alcohol. I love what Scouts has done to me and I will become something in the future.*

**Lebogang 16yrs Limpopo Province**



*Mugodeni Grace Cubs & Scouts.*



*Adult seminar with Scout Leaders from Greater Tzaneen Municipality.*

## B-P's OUT-LOOK

### Happifying!

At the risk of being a bore I would like to point out once again a direction in which we want to progress. Provided we don't aim too high or go too fast or too damn seriously, there is one job we CAN do through our boys.

It is the great little service of happifying. This old English word is one to carry in our minds in training our boys – more especially in this Christianising season of the year. If a boy only makes himself wear a cheery countenance in the street it is something. (Don't forget he gains it from the example of his



Scoutmaster.) It happifies or brightens up numbers of passers by, among the depressing hundreds of glum faces that they otherwise meet. The glum or bright is equally infectious. To get the boy to do this as a step to the greater happifying services is a thing worth trying for. The desire to happify, once instilled into the character of a boy is going to make all the difference in his relations with his fellow-men, and in his attitude to the community in after-life. It will make him the "Happy, helpful citizen" whom we need, and this, after all, is the real aim of our Endeavour in Scouting.

**January 1929**

*Aesop, the great fable teller, had occasion to travel from Athens to an outlying town. In those days the popular mode of transport was on foot. Half way through his journey he sat down on a rock to rest. He got into conversation with a fellow traveller making his way in the opposite direction. The fellow traveller, when he learned Aesop's destination said "I have just come from there – the people of that town are mean and unfriendly. They made my life very unhappy and difficult. How are the people in Athens?" Aesop's reply, "Unfortunately, YOU will find the people of Athens exactly the same!"*

## ADAPTING SCOUTING FOR THE YOUTH OF TODAY

What does that mean? Should we lower our standards because the youth of today expect less of themselves at home or at school? Is it just because he or she can get away with so much more without reprimand? Does that Scout Promise and those Scout Laws expect too much from to-days young people?

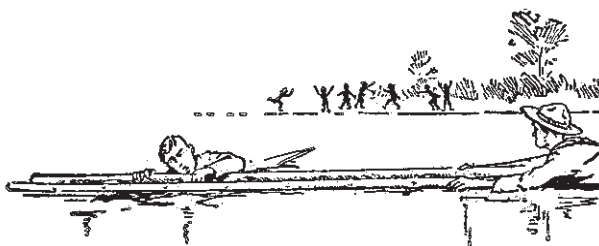
I can safely say that those ideals have been around for over one hundred years, and as long as we profess to be a Scout, and belong to SASA we will be bound by the Promise and Laws as they now stand. I have been asked why some scouting countries have adapted their laws, but if you really study what is there, they certainly cover what our founder meant them to be.

When I ask myself: "Why am I still in the movement?" I must reply; "Because of the moral and human guidelines I have gained from the L & P and what it can mean to so many of our young people in the future."

I am sure you have heard the expression – "All our wonderful outdoor activities are the 'sugar' around the pill of the Law and Promise." The activities are what

attracts the young people to the movement, and then subjects them to the influence of our moral code. These activities are what can be changed and are looked at, from time to time, to keep them appropriate to the place and times.

I recall, vividly, as a Scout doing First Aid – "Saving someone who has fallen through the ice". Crawling on my tummy, in the highveld dirt, pushing a pole to a fellow Scout squatting within a circle drawn about



him in the same dirt. When I asked if I could sooner heave a rope to him and "save" him in that way, I was curtly told "do it the way its supposed to be done as depicted in Scouting for Boys!" I have lived through a few generations of Scouting and I have yet to find a frozen pond. If I ever do, I will know exactly what to do. If, on the other hand, I lived in far northern climes, I would certainly need that skill, maybe.

The point I am trying to make is that we Troop Scouters and particularly Commissioners who "test" our young people for whatever advancement or Interest badge they undertake, to make it as interesting and relevant, to that person, as they can. Our programme is very tuned to the needs of our various communities. The Food for Life Project is a big deal to someone with little food. Knowledge on HIV/Aids is relevant to all, but more so to

anyone living closest to the source of infection. That big pioneering project is certainly of interest and adventuresome to the Troop in the community that can afford it. Scale it down to the Troop who cannot afford the expensive equipment. Maybe invite that Troop to "twin" with their more

fortunate brothers and be part of something more exciting.

Our movement stands or falls on the quality of the programme and how well or otherwise it is put over. Ask any "strong" Scout Group why they are succeeding? The answer – they have enthusiastic and active Leaders, and Leaders who have taken every opportunity to be trained in the job they are doing.

## A GROUP OR DISTRICT WEB PAGE

In our day, if not every youth, then a great majority of them are quite able to "get into" the web, send and receive email or take part in chat rooms etc. These activities are entertaining and time consuming, sometimes to the detriment of schoolwork and their social life. We hear and read of the danger young people can find themselves in, if not wary of this media.

Sure you would like to have your own web page for your Group or District. There are cheap or even free web pages advertised for customising, but be aware that the sponsor loads them with his own advertisements, many of which are unsuitable to be associated with Scouting. Then the searcher has great difficulty in getting in to find the actual information about the Group or District for which he is looking.

Whatever we lodge on this electronic medium, is available to anyone in the whole wide world, if they choose to search it out. For good, if it's a well thought out Web page, telling the world what a great

Scout Group you are part of. Your activities and what you plan to achieve by being a Scout, Rover or even a Wolf Cub, with photographs and illustrations that tell an even better story. A negative view if you "find" a Scout Web page that is not well laid out, neglects the basic guidelines of what Scouting is all about, and with lack of interest, is abandoned and never updated or improved. It lies there on the web, like litter in the street, for whoever passes by, to trip over and gives a negative impression of our great Scout movement.

If your Group or District plans to enter this wonderful area of communication, get someone "in the know" to assist in the task and let us "Web Searchers" say "Well Done! good and faithful Scout person!"

*Remember to check the national website at [www.scouting.org.za/groups](http://www.scouting.org.za/groups) for further advice on getting your group onto the web, and contact the webmaster at [webmaster@scouting.org.za](mailto:webmaster@scouting.org.za) to add a link once your group's page is ready.*

### Contributions can be:

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be prepared....